

Remarks

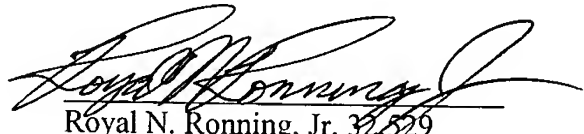
Claims 1-15 are pending in the instant application. Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, and 15 to more fully conform with U.S. practice and to delete multiple dependencies. A version of the claims marked up to show the amendments, as well as a clean version of the claims encompassing the amendments, is attached hereto.

Applicants also request that the attached abstract be added to the specification on a separate sheet as required.

Applicants respectfully assert that all amendments are fairly based on the specification, and respectfully request their entry.

Applicants believe that the claims, as amended, are in allowable form, and earnestly solicit the allowance of claims 1-15.

Respectfully submitted,



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Claims (marked-up version showing amendment(s))

Page 58, line 1:

[CLAIMS]What is claimed is:

3. (once amended) The compound of claim 1[or claim 2], wherein a reporter moiety Rp is not present in Q.
4. (once amended) The compound of [any one of claims 1 to 3]claim 1, wherein the linker group Ln is a chain of 1 to 60 carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and/or sulphur atoms, rigid or flexible, saturated or unsaturated.
5. (once amended) The compound of [any one of claims 1 to 4]claim 1, wherein the reporter moiety Rp is a signal moiety or a solid surface or a reactive group by means of which a signal moiety or a solid surface may be linked to the nucleoside or nucleotide analogue.
7. (once amended) A nucleoside analogue comprising a compound according to [any one of claims 1 to 6]claim 1.
8. (once amended) A nucleotide analogue comprising a compound according to [any one of claims 2 to 6]claim 2.
11. (once amended) [A]The polynucleotide chain according to claim 10 wherein Q is a nucleic acid backbone consisting of sugar-phosphate repeats or modified sugar-phosphate repeats (LNA), or a backbone analogue such as peptide or polyamide nucleic acid (PNA).
12. (once amended) A chain extension method which comprises reacting [a]the polynucleotide chain according to [claims 10 or 11]claim 10 with a primer in the presence of a polymerase.

14. (once amended) A method of detecting a nucleic acid which contains a compound according to [any of claims 1 to 6]claim 1, which method comprises the step of detecting the presence of the reporter moiety Rp.
15. (once amended) [A]The method as claimed in claim 14 in which the reporter moiety is a radioisotope, a stable isotope, a signal moiety or a specific chemical moiety suitable for detecting by spectroscopy, especially mass spectroscopy.